



Congressman Jon Porter

Veterans Update

May 2004

"It is the bravery and courage of our veterans that has protected our nation from foreign invaders and brought democracy to the far reaches of the world."

Did you know?

- **Nevada is home to more than 240,000 veterans**

Porter Report - Veterans



As your Representative in Congress, I am proud to represent the Third Congressional District, one of the fastest growing regions in the United States.

This month I am proud to join with all Americans in celebrating Memorial Day. Originally called Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

In Washington, DC, on the Thursday before Memorial Day the 1,200 soldiers of the 3rd US Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.

Our nation's veterans have served at different times, and in different places, but each of them shared the willingness to put their country before themselves. That is truly the highest form of citizenship.

Porter Secures Veterans Hospital for Southern Nevada



Congressman Porter joined with VA Secretary Anthony Principi to announce a major expansion in VA health care services in the Las Vegas Valley

On May 5, 2004 I joined with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony Principi and the rest of the Nevada Congressional Delegation to announce the construction of a Veterans hospital and medical complex in Southern Nevada.

These new facilities represent a major expansion of VA health care in Las Vegas with an investment of approximately \$250 million on veterans health care. New facilities include the construction of a new hospital, a long term care facility, and a modern outpatient clinic.

I have worked diligently with our entire Congressional delegation since the start of my service in Congress to see a Veterans Hospital in Las Vegas become a reality. We can never do enough for those who have sacrificed to defend our nation. Nevada has one of the fastest growing veteran populations in the country, with more than 240,000 veterans currently living in our state. It is imperative that we have the facilities to provide for them.

I look forward to continuing to work with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Anthony Principi, and with the rest of Nevada's Congressional delegation to ensure that the needs of our veterans are met. I have also been working to secure a Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Laughlin, and support the rest of Nevada's Congressional Delegation in working towards establishing a CBOC in Elko.

Porter Honors Tuskegee Airmen



Congressman Porter met with Las Vegas resident and retired Tuskegee Airmen Mr. George Sherman to learn more about the Airmen's service during WWII

On May 5, 2004, I introduced H. Con. Res. 417, a resolution in the US House of Representatives honoring the contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen. This resolution also honors their contribution in creating an integrated United States Air Force, the world's foremost Air and Space Supremacy Force.

Recently I had the opportunity to meet Mr.

George Sherman, a Las Vegas resident and retired member of the Tuskegee Airmen. Mr. Sherman shared stories from his military career and provided a window into the world the Tuskegee Airmen lived in.

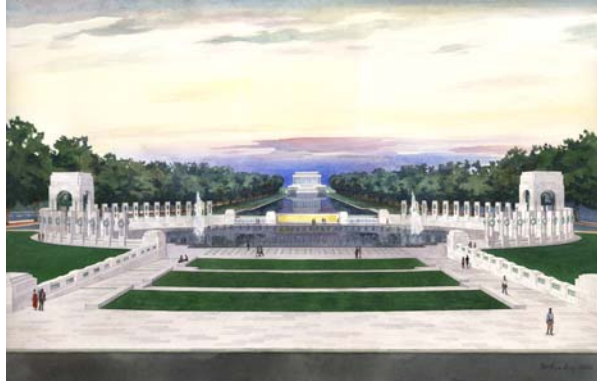
The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of dedicated and determined young men who enlisted to become America's first African-American airmen. These airmen were trained at Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAAF) in Tuskegee, Alabama beginning in 1941. Throughout their service during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen distinguished themselves over the skies of Europe.

Airmen trained at Tuskegee received two Presidential Unit Citations for outstanding tactical air support and aerial combat, and they established the incredible and unprecedented record of flying more than 200 bomber escort missions without the loss of a single bomber to enemy aircraft. The outstanding record of these men was accomplished while fighting two wars – one against military forces overseas and the other against racism both at home and abroad.

Among the most courageous of all those who served in our armed forces during the great World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen defied both fascism abroad and racism at home while establishing a record as one of the most successful fighting units in American history. I am proud to honor the Tuskegee Airmen for their contributions to our nation and the example they continue to offer us today.

I am proud to support these fine veterans and honor their great contributions to our nation.

WWII Memorial to be Dedicated in Washington, DC



Artist's rendering of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC

Nearly 60 years after the end of World War II, the National World War II Memorial will be dedicated in Washington, DC on Saturday, May 29, 2004. The Memorial Day weekend celebration on the National Mall culminates an 11-year effort to honor America's World War II generation.

The official dedication will span four days and will include a WWII-themed reunion exhibition on the National Mall staged in

partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, a service of celebration at the Washington National Cathedral, and an entertainment salute to WWII veterans from military performing united.

The National World War II Memorial will be the first national memorial dedicated to all those who served during World War II. Established by the American Battle Monuments Commission, the memorial will honor all military veterans of the war, the citizens on the home front, the nation at large, and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms. The Second World War will be the only 20th century event commemorated on the National Mall's central axis.

I am pleased to welcome some of the many brave Nevadans who served during World War II that will be visiting Washington, DC Memorial Day weekend and invite you to contact my office to set up a guided tour of the US Capitol building while you are in town. Please contact my office at 202-225-3252 for more information.

Contact Me

Should you require additional information regarding veterans' issues, if you would like to inform me of your views, or if you require assistance with Veterans Affairs claims, please contact me anytime in either my Henderson, NV or Washington, DC offices.

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